

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please delete Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 16-19 and 21 without prejudice, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of designing a layout of an integrated circuit, comprising the steps of:

first placing a plurality of logic cells in an initial region of the integrated circuit using a first conjugate gradient placement algorithm;

5 partitioning the initial region into two or more partitioned regions; and

second placing a portion of the logic cells in at least one of the partitioned regions using a ~~second~~ successive over-relaxation placement algorithm ~~which is different from the first placement algorithm.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
second partitioning one of the partitioned regions into two or more partitioned sub-regions; and

5 third placing a portion of the logic cells in at least one of the partitioned sub-regions using a third placement algorithm which is different from the ~~first conjugate gradient~~ and ~~second successive over-relaxation~~ placement algorithms.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

means for processing program instructions;

a memory device connected to said processing means; and

program instructions residing in said memory device for designing a layout of an

5 integrated circuit, wherein said program instructions first place a plurality
of logic cells in an initial region of the integrated circuit using a ~~first~~
conjugate gradient placement algorithm, partition the initial region into
two or more partitioned regions, and second place a portion of the logic
cells in at least one of the partitioned regions using a ~~second~~ successive
10 over-relaxation placement algorithm ~~which is different from the first~~
~~placement algorithm.~~

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The computer system of Claim 8 wherein said program
instructions further second partition one of the partitioned regions into two or more
partitioned sub-regions, and third place a portion of the logic cells in at least one of the
partitioned sub-regions using a third placement algorithm which is different from the ~~first~~
5 conjugate gradient and ~~second~~ successive over-relaxation placement algorithms.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer-readable medium; and
program instructions residing in said medium for designing a layout of an
integrated circuit, wherein said program instructions first place a plurality
of logic cells in an initial region of the integrated circuit using a ~~first~~
conjugate gradient placement algorithm, partition the initial region into
two or more partitioned regions, and second place a portion of the logic
cells in at least one of the partitioned regions using a ~~second~~ successive
over-relaxation placement algorithm ~~which is different from the first~~
placement algorithm.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein said
program instructions further second partition one of the partitioned regions into two or
more partitioned sub-regions, and third place a portion of the logic cells in at least one of
the partitioned sub-regions using a third placement algorithm which is different from the
~~first~~ conjugate gradient and ~~second~~ successive over-relaxation placement algorithms.

21. (canceled)